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REPORT
PETITION OF SARAH EASTON
AND DOROTHY STORER



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United States.

Report of the Committee on
pensions and revolutionary
claims, on the petition of
1816.

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REPORT

Of the committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims on the Petition of Sarah Easton and Dorothy Storer.

Made March 13, 1816.

Accompanied with a bill concerning Sarah Easton and Dorothy Storer.

The committee on Pensions and Revolutionary claims to whom was referred the petition of Sarah Easton and Dorothy Storer, daughters and legal representatives of the late Col. R. H. Harrison


REPORT.....

That the petitioners ask Congress to allow them the half pay which was due to revolutionary officers, and the donation of land promised them by the old Congress, to which they think their father was entitled. But this half pay and donation was promised to none but those who should continue in the service until the close of the war. This was not Col. Harrison's case. He withdrew from the military service of the country before the war; and was not, therefore, entitled to either.

His heirs, of course, have no right to claim them. They also ask Congress to allow them the privilege of changing the location of a military land warrant issued to them by the legislature of Virginia on account of the services of their father, from the lands heretofore reserved for satisfying those warrants to other of the public lands, alleging, as an inducement thereto, that the locations made on the lands reserved for satisfying these warrants have taken up all the valuable parts of this reservation. It has appeared to the committee, that the unlocated part of this reservation is of very little value; but it does not appear that there is not enough to satisfy the claim of the petitioners. The committee do not consider that there is any legal obligation on Congress to grant the prayer of the petition. If the reservation were all located, and Virginia had been bound to issue the warrant, it might then impose an equitable obligation on Congress to provide for its satisfaction; inasmuch as Virginia, being thus bound, had ceded her back lands to the general government, and inasmuch as the general government may be supposed to have been acquainted with the extent of her obligation. But Virginia has been liberal to the descendants of a highly meritorious officer, than whom there was, perhaps, none more so; and it may be proper for Congress to be equally liberal, and to grant the prayer of the petition in this respect. Col. Harrison was of the staff of the commander in chief, and preferring that situation, he declined promotions in the line of the army: this evidenced a disinterestedness and magnanimity which ought not to be overlooked. It lessened the prospects of his own advancement, but still enabled him to render very distinguished services to the country. The pet

tioners are said to be in humble circumstances. Taking the whole of the circumstances of the case into consideration, the committee are of opinion that the petitioners ought to be allowed to change the location of their warrants, and for that purpose report a bill.

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